

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

NC
E/E
Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 5-9 as follows:

"With reference to one embodiment of the invention shown in **Figures 1-2**, there is provided assembly 10 that may be used to facilitate percutaneous insertion of an intravascular cannula, tube, and catheter. **Figure 2** shows assembly 10 generally comprises introducer 15, needle 18, needle blunting assembly 25, and protective outer sheath or cannula 16 (**Figure 1**)."

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E/E
Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 10-13 as follows:

"Introducer 15 comprises an elongated tubular cannula ~~30~~16 with a hollow lumen 35 extending longitudinally through cannula ~~30~~16. A tapered distal tip is formed on the distal end of the cannula ~~30~~16 to facilitate insertion and advancement of the cannula through skin, connective tissue, or a blood vessel wall."

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E/E
Please amend the paragraph on page 8, lines 11-15 as follows:

"It will be appreciated that engagement member ~~52~~ 77 of the blunting apparatus 25 may be formed or configured in various different ways, without departing from its intended functions, including the function of facilitating movement of the blunting apparatus 25 between its proximally retracted "non-blunting" position as shown in **Figure 5**, and its distally extended "blunting" portions as shown in **Figure 6**."